(a) whether Government has commenced the work to convert railway stations into Adarsh Railway Stations; and

(b) if so, the details of fund allocations for Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Development of railway station as Adarsh Station is undertaken through works sanctioned under Plan Head - Passenger Amenities. State-wise allocation of funds for this Plan Head is not maintained. However, allocation of funds under this Plan Head for Southern Railway, which covers the State of Tamil Nadu, is Rs. 7536.40 lakh for the year 2009-10.

High speed parcel train

2590. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Northern Railway is running a high speed parcel train from Tughlaqabad (Delhi) to Vapi (Gujarat);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railways proposes to operate such trains in future on other sectors also; and

(d) if so, the details with destinations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A superfast parcel express train service is operating from Tughlakabad (Delhi) to Vapi (Gujarat) and Howrah as a pilot project. Another such service is being planned between Tughlakabad to Royapuram under the pilot project. Efforts are being made to popularize the superfast parcel express train services.

Absorption of Act Apprentices

2591. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on 1 July, 2009, General Manager, Southern Railway issued a notification to absorb Act Apprentices of Railway;

(b) whether on 14 October, 2009, Railways published a list of Act Apprentices in its website and directed them to join on 15 October, 2009;

(c) whether on 14 October, 2009, Southern Railway administration received directions to stop the recruitment; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) On 1.7.2009, Notification was issued by Southern Railway calling applications from amongst Course Completed Act Apprentices for their engagement as substitutes in Group D posts.